(c) and (d) Hyderabad is connected to Mumbai *via* NH-9 and NH-4. The stretch of NH-4 from Mumbai to Pune is already 4-laned and the stretch of NH-9 from Pune to Sholapur is included in NHDP Phase-III for which the Detailed Project Report (DPR) is in progress.

NH projects running behind schedule

983. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many National Highway Projects are running behind schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there has been complaint that in many sectors the road construction was far below than the standard norms; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) and (b) Some of the National Highway Projects are running behind schedule due to problems associated with land acquisition, shifting of utilities and poor performance of contractors.

(c) and (d) Few complaints have been received about quality of material used in construction and rutting on National Highways.

Increase in road accidents on NHs

984. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the road accidents that occurred during 2003—05, year-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that the accidents increased after the four laning of National Highways; and

(c) if so, the measures ensuring safety of passengers by Government to reduce accidents?